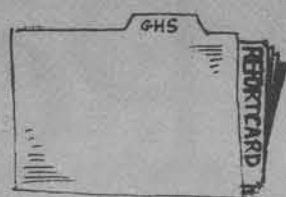


No Virginia:  
There's no  
Santa Claus here



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# The Glastonbury High School Paladin

Volume 2; Issue 4  
December 22, 1993

## World AIDS Day A Success

by Alex Colflesh

On December 1st, students at GHS wore red ribbons to acknowledge World AIDS Day. World AIDS Day is organized by the World Health Organization, which is run by the United Nations. The purpose of this day was to call attention to the issue of AIDS as a global issue. Mr. Doolittle, health coordinator for the Glastonbury school system, says that because AIDS affects the entire globe

— all of humanity," the organization has set aside December 1st as World AIDS day for the past three years.

In preparation for the day, junior Michelle Giroux and senior Jessica Holzman created a poster that was hung in the cafeteria. They painted a huge replica of the red ribbon stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service, as well as few key facts about the disease. The Key Club contributed by

cutting and pinning enough red ribbons for every student and faculty member in the entire school to wear. Along with the poster, the video *Timeout*, which is an open discussion between Magic Johnson and Arsenio Hall about AIDS, was shown during all four lunches.

According to Doolittle, the event was a success. He was pleased to see how smoothly it ran; he felt that

kids took the event seriously and were, "proud to be part of the day and the movement." He felt that students who took the ribbons were not just taking them to make a fashion statement, and he was especially pleased to see that the poster was not vandalized. Doolittle worked with teachers Mrs. Spinnler and Mr.

Hull to complete this project, and he feels that this is another reason for the project's success; different departments came together to get the message of awareness across.

After World AIDS Day, several faculty members approached Doolittle about the possibility of presenting in-

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## Successful Fall Sports Season Ends With Awards Night

by Hanching Fuh

On Tuesday, December 7 at 7:00 P.M., athletes, supportive parents, coaches, teachers, and other citizens alike all assembled in the Knox Auditorium at Glastonbury High School for the annual Fall Sports Award Program.

The evening's activities began with opening comments from Raymond K. Nicolletta, the Director of Athletics. Following him was the Chairperson of the Glastonbury Board of Education, Suzanne Galvin, who stated in her speech, "I believe that sports is an impor-

tant part of education." In addition, Galvin emphasized the important lessons to be learned by participating in sports, including sportsmanship, team work, and how to be both a gracious winner and a gracious loser.

Jacqueline J. Jacoby, superintendent of schools, was the first to shine the spotlight on the CIAC Class L State Championship won by the girls' volleyball team. Jacoby also listed her 8 methods towards excellence and stated that she, "saw it in every sports team."

Principal Dr. Alan

Bookman focused his speech on the topic of "success is measured in many ways." These included winning, improvement, sportsmanship, and sticking together. Bookman, besides giving much credit to girl's volleyball team, also stated his pride in Glastonbury's winning of the Best Sportsmanship award for every sport in the past 5 out of 8 years.

Soon afterwards, Dennis Weir, president of the Booster Club, an organization which helps to defray the cost of sports by purchasing equipment for the schools, gave a speech about the purpose of his club. Jackets were then given to new coaches Diane Johnson, Mark Landers, Dave Clarke, K.C. Warren, and Pam Rolls on behalf of the Booster Club.

At about 7:15 P.M., championship plaques were presented to Dr. Bookman. Seniors Rebecca Dressler, Hope Monzeglio, and Susan Strickland of the girls' swim team presented Bookman

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## Bah Humbug! Secretary sent home

by Jen McQuilken

On Friday, December 10, an unnamed office secretary was sent home from school because of what she was wearing, a sweater with a Christmas tree on it. Principal Dr. Alan Bookman declined to comment on the incident.

As the holidays come around, the Board Policy, that no holidays shall be celebrated in school, is once again under fire.

Five years ago, a teacher in Naubuc school made a Jewish student write a letter to Santa Claus though he didn't believe in him. Suddenly, after protest from this child's family and their Rabbi, the Board created this policy.

Since then, many traditions have been abolished in the schools. The Math De-

partment for example has always set up a Christmas tree in their office and each teacher brought in an ornament. But when they were told that this could no longer be done, they protested by leaving the tree up year round, and appropriately decorated it according to the season.

Social Studies teacher Dr. James Marshall has dressed up as Santa Claus for many years and intends to continue. When this was pointed out, Bookman said that this difference, "has nothing to do with the policies," but conceded that there are "some inconsistencies in the policies."

So far there are no plans to change these inconsistencies.

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# Editorial Page

## The Confederate Conspiracy

By Sandya Srinivasan

The Confederate flag: What exactly does it mean? To some GHS students, it apparently represents country music and the old South. I took it upon myself to look it up in volume 4 of the World Book encyclopedia. It wasn't listed, so I looked up what it represents—the Confederate States of America.

The following is its definition: The name taken by six Southern states when they organized their own government at Montgomery, Alabama, in February 1861. The states seceded (withdrew) from the government of the United States in 1860 and 1861 because they feared that the election of Abraham Lincoln, a Republican President, might lead to restrictions on slavery." Correct me if I'm wrong, but it looks to me like the Confederate flag has a little more to do with slavery than Garth Brooks and Willie Nelson.

Opponents will say it's their God-given freedom of

speech to parade around with a flag they want, and I can't argue there. The question is: Is it their right in school? Let's face it, if the laws of the constitution pertained to school I could just leave my history class every time something from the Bible of Christian society was mentioned, because I am not Christian. And people could just get up in the middle of class and scream at the top of their lungs, "I had pickles for breakfast" repeatedly while the teacher tried to conduct class because it was their freedom of speech. The point I'm trying to make is that constitutional laws don't always apply to school because it could prove chaotic. If they did, Dr. Bookman would not be able to stop us from wearing shirts with alcohol slogans, or carrying weapons, or the deadly—eating school store lollipops in class.

But let's forget about the legal ramifications for a minute. What about com-

mon courtesy? This flag, to some people, represents a time when their people, their own ancestors, were enslaved and treated cruelly. Why anyone would want to remind someone of this injustice is beyond me.

I happen to be a Hindu and in my religion the swastika is a holy symbol. In fact, Hitler borrowed this symbol from India, thinking it was Nordic, when he began his Third Reich. I could easily carry this symbol around but I make it a point never to use it because I know it would deeply offend and hurt those of Jewish decent, whose ancestors were viciously slaughtered in the Holocaust.

To be completely fair, I have noticed a decline in the number of Confederate flags displayed in and around GHS. My advice to those who still carry them, although I am probably the last person they are looking to for advice, is to find another symbol. If you are doing this because you love the South or country music, then wear a cowboy hat or cowboy boots. And if you are doing it to wreak havoc, then I suggest you need a hobby.

## The Right Point of View

by Kevin Miller

I support the right of students to display the Confederate flag because those who display it for its true meaning and legitimate ties to the South are not being racist.

The Confederate flag is not a racist emblem, but its meaning has been contorted by ignorance and racist groups who have used it for the wrong reasons. Also, the students have the right under the First Amendment, freedom of speech.

First, let's explore what the flag really means and how it came about. When the South seceded from the Union, bringing about the Civil War, the South chose the Confederate flag to represent the region which they hoped would become a new country. So, the flag wasn't created to represent slavery, but rather the South as a whole; its individuality and desire for independence.

The Confederate flag is very similar to a state flag. It represents a region which is unified and would like to be seen as a group within the larger group called America. Although the South isn't officially seen as a separate political body, there are obvious regions which we recognize throughout the United States, and the South is one of them.

Other than geography, the South has common historical, traditional, and ancestral threads. The flag is a form of identification. It is ridiculous to say that a flag is a racist symbol because it represents a region that supported slavery 130 years ago. Just because I have a flag of Ireland hanging in my room doesn't mean that I support violence against the English government.

This is not to mention the fact that displaying the flag is protected under the First Amendment. People have the right express themselves; it's called freedom. If we censor these people, where will it stop?

White supremacy groups have picked up the flag and tried to use it as a symbol, but obviously for the wrong reasons. The meaning of the flag is contorted when it's displayed by these groups, but I haven't noticed any GHS students belonging to one. If the students display the flag for the wrong reasons, it can be seen as a racist act, but if they display it for its true meaning, which most of them do, it shouldn't be seen as a racist act.

and proclaims it to everyone, but did she have to insult just about every male at the awards night in the process? After all, we are supposed to take notice of everyone that played a sport whether they are girls, boys, state champions, or finished in last place.

"She went a little overboard," said junior Elizabeth Plikaitis of the State Championship volleyball team. "I don't think she had to stress it so much because she might of made people a bit uncomfortable, but I do think it is ok for her to talk about the girls because she might not think we get as much attention."

However, girls volleyball team co-captain senior Missy Roy disagrees, "I don't think what she said was inappropriate." I personally agree with Elizabeth.

If she thinks that the girls do not get as much personal

attention in sports then, by all means, I encourage her to express her thoughts. But, you would think that the Superintendent of Schools would be able to find a more creative and effective way to get her point across than just ruining the good time that everyone was having by making her anti-male comments known at a night on which everyone is supposed to be rewarded for their performance in sports. In my opinion, if she really wanted to females to get more recognition in sports she could do something like hire more female coaches or her speech even could have been something to encourage more girls to join sports. No, instead Ms. Jacoby tried to make a fool out of every male in the auditorium that night, but it backfired because her point was not well taken.

## Feminism wins no awards

by Rashaan Williams

On Tuesday, December 3, 1993, I attended the fall sports awards night in the auditorium. This is always a special night for me, because I get to talk to a lot of my friends that I play football with and do not have regular contact with during the year outside of the season. I also like sports awards night because it is the one night that I actually get a little something back for working hard during the football season, whether it is in the form of a certificate, pin, or varsity letter. This is also probably one of the few times of the year that some of the football coaches and I can talk on a noncompetitive level and not worry about the sports season (well, not too much anyway). I usu-

ally enjoy myself at sports awards night, but this year I was extremely disappointed with the commentary of one of the speaking guests.

The comments came from the Superintendent of Schools, non other than Ms. Jackie Jacoby herself. Ms. Jacoby almost single handedly ruined sports awards night for some students. She accomplished this insurmountable feat by first asking the crowd to take notice how the Superintendent of Schools and the Chairperson of the Board (Ms. Sue Galvin) are women. After the crowd took notice of this observation, she then pointed out how the girls volleyball team had won the State Championship. After this, she pro-

ceeded to very enthusiastically proclaim that this would be the year of the woman. Following her speech, which sparked as much morale as a KKK meeting in the middle of Harlem, one of the only males that clapped for her was Dr. Bookman, along with a handful of females who clapped just to get her off the stage.

Now, don't get me wrong. I am happy for the girls volleyball team since they won the State Championship. As well, I really do not mind if it's the year of the woman because I am in favor of equal rights for women. I guess my problem is with the way Ms. Jacoby came across. I mean, I do not mind if she is in favor of woman's rights



# No Virginia, Dr. Bookman Says There is No Santa Claus

By Ross Feldmann

Recently, an administration secretary was sent home by Dr. Bookman to change her sweater because of the Christmas tree design on it. This latest act of Christmas-censoring is merely the tip of the iceberg, though. If one was to walk the high school halls in search of any signs of

Christmas is not the way to avoid discrimination in the school system. In fact, this act can only lead to discrimination of a much greater degree.

Our country was founded as an Anglo-Christian nation. However, before the Declaration of Indepen-



Christmas or Chanukah, it would be a fruitless search. Indeed, GHS is bereft of holiday spirit.

The logic behind this is to avoid discrimination of certain lesser acknowledged religions. Due to pressure put on the school board by parents, holiday spirit has been effectively banned from Glastonbury Public Schools. I would like to state forthright that I sympathize with the more esoteric religions. I myself am an atheist living in a town of mostly Protestants and Catholics. I admit, at times religion is uncomfortable, but Christmas is entirely different. Banning

dence was signed and the Constitution was drafted, deism and other religious ideologies changed our nation from purely puritan to religiously diverse. America has become a melting pot of religions. And, in this eclectic society, the smaller religions are naturally intimidated. However, freedom of religion, as cited in the first amendment, protects any and all religions.

Therefore, instead of feeling intimidated by the majority religions, we, as a nation, should celebrate our eclecticism. Displaying Christmas trees and other holiday ornaments is not sub-

versive, but educational. Likewise, it is educational to celebrate the coming of Jultomte in Sweden, Saint Nicholas on December 6 in Belgium and the Netherlands, Pere Noel in France, Kriss Kringle in Germany, Saint Lucy in Switzerland, Father Frost in Poland, etc., etc. Just because I'm an atheist, does not mean I disdain any of these customs. In fact, I find them very interesting.

Furthermore, Christmas, in almost all religions, has become much more than a holy day. A prime example of this is the "Christmas tree."

Jesus Christ was born, as the bible states, in a manger in Bethlehem, a town in the Middle East. What does a small pine tree have to do with Bethlehem or the birth of Christ? About as much as the Lionel Train: absolutely nothing. Christmas is a vast collection of traditions and

Lastly, I'm concerned for the future of religion in general in the United States. If a Protestant is not allowed to simply state his or her beliefs in the school, and a Jew is not allowed to do the same, religion in America will surely grow to be very separated. How will a Catholic

customs that have evolved over the past 2000 years. To ban these traditions is anti-educational and, therefore, goes against the primary objective in any school system.

I also find this ruling hypocritical in the context of GHS. For example, this school has a bible study club. This club is dedicated to loving, knowing, and wanting to serve God. I am not against the formation of such a club, but one would wonder why Christmas trees and a fat guy dressed in red get more complaints for religious discrimination than a purely Christian club. There are a great many other examples as well.

child be able to understand Islamic beliefs later in life? How will a Jewish child be able to understand Hindu beliefs? In the school board's efforts to create a bland, non-religious school system, they are taking away the only weapon towards prejudice, racism, classism, and religious-discrimination: knowledge.

To state my opinion plain and simple, Christmas should be allowed in the school system. I don't think Christmas displays should be sponsored by the school budget, but by the students or faculty. It's time to tolerate our diversity and not ignore it.

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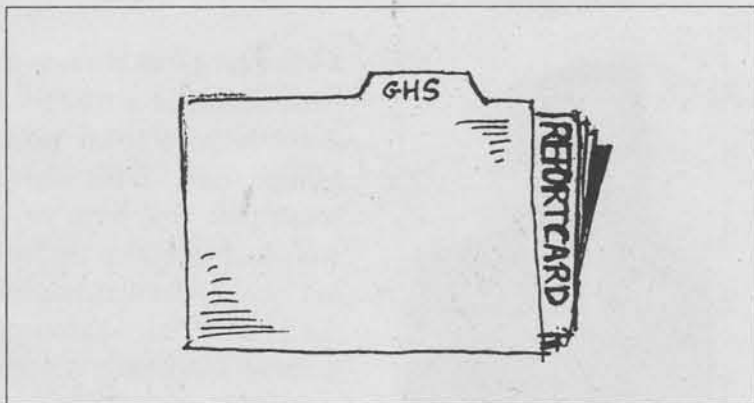


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# Grades Changing: A + or A - ?

by Seema Shah

Every three years there is an examination and revision of all school policies. This year is the year for grades. Assistant Principal Ms. Ann Jarvis is heading a committee of teachers, parents, and one student to investigate the way grades are reported. They are debating whether or not to report absences, exam grades, and to expand the comments on report cards also. The proposition that the committee is focusing on is implementing a plus and minus grading system on students' report cards and transcripts. This would document the difference between a 79.9 average and a 89.4 average for example, for parents and colleges to see.



Jarvis has conducted an informal study of area high schools and found that most of them use the plus and minus system. She has also drawn up a survey to be sent out to parents in the December Parents' Newsletter.

The question arises of how should the plus and minus grades be weighted in

terms of Grade Point Averages. Another committee has been formed by Assistant Principal Mrs. Janet Glitzenstein to analyze this aspect of the debate as well as other grade weighting policies. Though this committee has not actually met, Glitzenstein is already conducting some preliminary re-

search similar to Jarvis' on the main issue, that is the extra point awarded for Level 1 classes. She found that area high schools have various systems. Some award no extra points but designate classes as honors. Others give .25 or .5 additional points for high ability courses.

Parents will have a chance to express their opinion in another poll enclosed with the December newsletter.

If students have concerns, they should speak to senior Jennie Alcorta about the plus and minus grading system or to seniors Rachel Burt or Caroline Klaffky about the grade weighting policy.

formation to their students before World AIDS Day next year. Doolittle wants to incorporate AIDS facts into the curriculum next year. For example, math classes might use AIDS facts and figures to learn about statistics and social studies classes will be able to study the effect of AIDS on different countries.

Overall, Doolittle feels that while the day heightened awareness and stimulated discussion of the issue, it is only the first step. He thinks that teenagers treat the whole issue with an element of nonchalance; he calls this the "power of youth." Students tend to feel, according to Doolittle, that their friends don't have AIDS, that no one in their community has AIDS, and that they can't get AIDS. "Until we all know someone directly [affected by the disease], we don't internalize; it doesn't hit home."

## Skiers Take a New Turn

### Ski Club Plans For '94

By Michael Gee

The GHS Ski Club, which has undergone significant changes this year, boasts a successful Ski Sale/Swap and announces some of the important upcoming ski trips for 1994.

On the weekend of November 12th, fifty Ski Club members worked at the Ski Sale/Swap. With equipment that people wanted to sell, many skiers found bargains on skis, poles, boots, and miscellaneous necessities. More than \$5,000 was raised to help make the upcoming ski trips more affordable.

This year there were some changes made to regarding membership in the Ski Club. Instead of a membership week where you pay five dollars in lunch to become a member, you now join by working at the ski sale or by attending one of the trips scheduled for this year. This change was necessary because of students signing up and never attending any of the trips which made tracking active Ski Club members difficult.

Another change made this year by the ski club was the addition of a voucher system. The voucher system is the payment system used by the Ski Club for students who

worked at the ski sale. After the ski sale John Hull (the founder of the ski club) would see how many hours that student has worked and choose how many vouchers that person should get. Each voucher is worth five dollars and an average of four vouchers are given out to each student.

The vouchers, instead of being individual slips of paper worth five dollars each, will be changed to something totally different. This year there will only be one slip of paper sent to your homeroom with the amount of vouchers you have earned this year. When you want to go onto a ski trip the vouchers will be automatically used and subtract the original cost of that ski trip.

The trips for this year go as follows:

January 8: The first day trip (more to come)

January 21-23: Junior trip to Sugarbush Vermont (sign up early)

March 11-13: Sophomore trip to Stowe Vermont

February 20-27: Senior trip to Quebec (One full week of skiing)

Presently, there still many trips waiting to be signed-up. Skiers and snowboarders alike are advised to sign up early for the trips, because they are expected to fill-up fast fast.

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with the CCC West Swimming Championship plaque. Bookman was showered with awards when the girls' volleyball team (22-0), represented by seniors Kristen Cott, Kristen Govoni, Emily Henderson, and Missy Roy gave him various plaques and banners, including the CCC West championship, and the Class L Connecticut state championship.

The Hartwell award, given in each sport on the basis of leadership, sportsmanship, and dedication, along with the All Conference and All State awards was given out after that.

In field hockey, senior Allison Hawley took home the Hartwell award, while juniors Amy Leon, and goalie Courtney Wrenn were given All Conference honors.

When football awards were given out, senior full-back Don Paole, who ended the season with 1140 yards rushed and 12 touchdowns, was awarded the Hartwell. In addition to the Hartwell, Paole also made the All Conference team, along with seniors Josh Anagnos, Eric Damato, Steve Kessler, Ryan McDonnell, and sophomore Mark Olschefske. In girls' soccer, senior Karen Junker was given All League, All State, All American, and Hartwell honors. Sophomore

Kristen Penney, and seniors Nicole Posillico, and Jill Sloper made the All League and/or All State.

Boys' soccer presentations, which were given next, had senior Todd Fitzgerald winning the Hartwell award. Fitzgerald also received an All League award and played in the Senior Bowl, a Thanksgiving Day soccer match involving the best senior players in the area. Seniors Derek Gagnon, Ronnie Slangen, junior Dan O'Grady, and sophomore Ken Mehler were given All League honors.

Senior Annapurna Balakrishna was awarded the Hartwell for girls' cross country, while freshman Dorey Gilman was given a All Conference award. Senior Brandon Cochrane received both the Hartwell, and All Conference for boys' cross country. Also getting All Conference honors were juniors Kelley Gilman and Jeff McCarthy. McCarthy also received an award for making All State and represented Glastonbury at New England, where he finished 30th out of over 200 of the best runners.

In cheerleading, coach Debbie Clough awarded the Hartwell award to senior Jessica Adams, who Clough stated she saw potential in when Adams first joined the cheerleading squad several years ago.

The CCC West cham-

pion girls swim team saw senior Hope Monzeglio win both the Hartwell and All Conference honors. Sophomores Carrie Backlund, Emily Nielson, Betsy Strickland, and senior Catherine Sterling made the All Conference team.

For the State Champs, the girls' volleyball team, senior Missy Roy received much of the glory, winning the Hartwell award, as well as All State and All Conference honors. In addition, Kristen Cott also made the All Conference team.

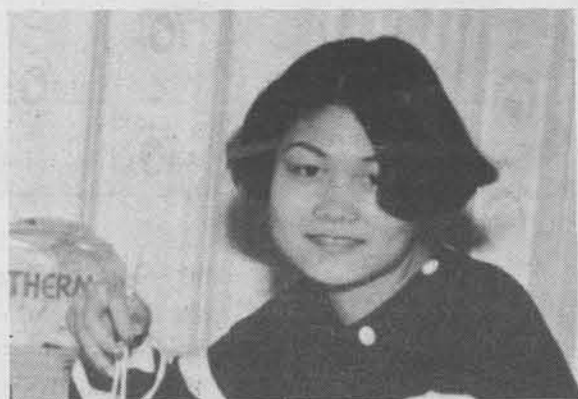
Later, after all the Hartwell, All State, and All Conference/League honors had been given out, athletes from each of the nine fall sports, convened in several different rooms and were given lesser awards, including their numerals, letters, Booster Club letter jackets, sports insignias, and special team awards. Also at this time, refreshments were being served in the cafeteria, courtesy of the Booster Club.

Ray K. Nicolletta, director of athletics, summarized up the night by saying, "It was a wonderful evening. We had our usual enthusiastic crowd of athletes, parents, and fans. What I enjoyed most is how supportive the teams are of each other. It shows that Glastonbury High School has great team spirit."



## Coming to the New World

by Suet-hei Kwok



Jassica's way to America was a 21 hour flight in a blue sky covered with nothing but some puffy white clouds floating beneath the plane. During her trip, Jassica wondered what America was really like. The only thing she had heard was that America is a great place to "pan for gold." In fact, the Chinese word for America translates as "beautiful country," so she expected something wonderful.

It was the day before Thanksgiving in 1991 when Jassica arrived at her new home in Wethersfield. Her uncle served the family a whole baked turkey. He then explained to Jassica's family that this was a special day that every American family celebrated together. Jassica laughed, "I thought it was funny to have a turkey." She explained that she had never tasted turkey meat before and she had never heard of Thanksgiving in Canton, China.

On her first day of school, Jassica found out that holidays were not the only

thing that differed between China and America. Here, every American's eye and hair color was different. There were people whose ancestors had immigrated to America from all over the world. It is the cultural mix that shocks Jassica. In her native country, everyone has brown eyes and black hair.

"That is not all," said Jassica. "Even school systems are different here." Schools in China have an open campus; students can leave the school during the ten minute break every period. Here students only have a four minute break and students in GHS can not even leave school during their 45 minute lunch break. This is particularly amazing because there are a lot more McDonalds here than there are in Canton. Lunch breaks in China are one hour long, and the students go home for lunch. During lunch break, Jassica often went over to her friend's house; they played together.

A positive aspect of schools in China is that there

is very little vandalism, other than writing characters on tables and walls and throwing papers on the school grounds. The reason for this may be that students have to clean up messes by themselves; there are no janitors in their schools.

One thing Jassica likes about America is that the schools here are not as stressful as in China. School in China generally meets from 7:00 to 12:00 and from 1:00 to 4:00.

Students receiving an F on any assignment automatically get a detention. During the detention, students have to study their text with their teachers until the teachers know that they understand the concept that is being taught in class. Teachers want to study with their students during detentions so that the students will not be left behind in class. The parents do not complain about an after school detention because they believe that the teacher is putting in extra time to teach their children.

The students don't use any kind of drugs, either within or outside of school. Jassica said, "I had never saw or heard of anyone using marijuana or heroin in my school." She says that the students don't even smoke, although sometimes they drink at home with families during Chinese holidays.

Students in China don't think drugs are cool. They don't have the same type of popular cultural as American

## Incident sparks faculty protest of board policy

by Liz Clampet

The recent implementation of the board policy which bars employees of the school system from wearing any clothing and/or jewelry depicting any form of representation of a religious holiday has been unpopular among faculty members and students alike. Ever since an unnamed office secretary in the school was sent home by Principal Dr. Alan Bookman to change a sweater displaying a Christmas tree on December 10th, the issue has exploded throughout the school, sparking protests among faculty groups.

Students and teachers alike came to school dressed in Christmas attire in protest the following Monday, December 13th. The Paladin has received a flood of responses from teachers and students.

Rashaan Williams, a sophomore, spoke out and said, "I think people should be able to wear whatever they want. If people want to celebrate Jewish, Christian, Muslim, or any other holiday, let them."

Junior Jessica Larson agreed, "People should be able to wear what they want and celebrate whatever holiday they want to. Whatever happened to Christmas Spirit?"

In addition to being upset about not being able to

wear what they want, many people feel that this policy has infringed upon their civil rights. Junior Karen Ellis voiced her opinion by saying, "...Does that also mean that a person cannot wear a Jewish star or cross? I think that it's a rule that is cutting into our freedom of religion and is something that they should leave alone."

Social Studies Department teacher Mr. Doll felt this way also, "I think it's a violation of an individual's civil liberties. If it was me, there would be an ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) lawyer sitting in the office the next day. This being a multi-cultural society, a person should be able to express his or her individual beliefs."

**"Students are allowed to wear Confederate flags but not pictures of Santa Claus?"**

Hanching Fuh, a freshman, responded in a similar way as well. "Although I don't believe in religion, I also believe in the First Amendment and the right of everyone to express what they believe."

People are also against the policy because it doesn't take into account the traditional aspects of Christmas. Dr. Marshall, a social studies teacher who traditionally dresses as Santa Claus, responded by saying, "...If there are no detrimental effects, I don't think tradition should be thrown out the door."

Most people directly involved with the school system seem to agree that the policy has gotten out of hand. Senior Chris Angeli said, "It's not a big deal. People have blown it out of proportion. This is not offensive at all."

Certain anonymous school faculty members said that the policy was "much ado about nothing."

One student thought it was just a big joke. Senior Anu Balakrishna, who is Hindu, joked, "If relieving

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# GHS Sports

## Tomahawk Swimmers Scalp Irish

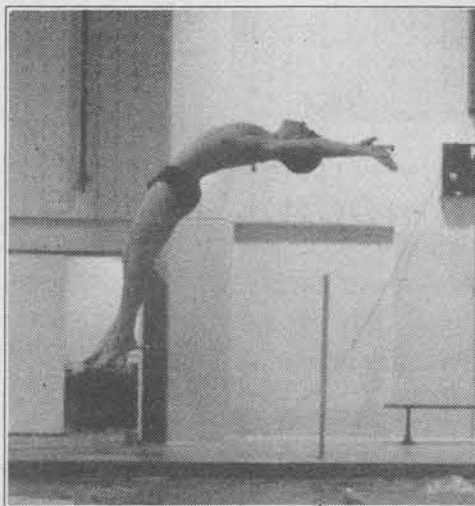
by Shane Igo

December 17-The boys' swim team (1-0) breezed by Notre Dame (W. Haven) with a final score of 98-85 to win their first meet of the season. The small Notre Dame team showed the strength of their swimmers, but could not compete with the speed and depth of the Tomahawks.

The Irish started the meet by winning the 200-yard medley relay. This gave them a 8-6 lead. The next event, the 200 yard freestyle, was

dominated by Glastonbury. Senior co-captain Pete Casares, junior Jeff Mitchell and junior Ben Hollister swept the event by taking the first three places respectively. Each of the Tomahawk swimmers finished before their opposing Notre Dame swimmer by at least eight seconds.

Junior John Wentworth, senior Jerry Papenhausen, and freshman Calvin May took second, third, and fourth in the 200-yard individual



Jon Patoka (Fresh) takes the plunge

medley. Thus adding to the Tomahawks lead by two points.

The diving event showed the strength of G-bury's two divers, senior Scott Nelson and freshman John Patoka. Their efforts gave them second and third places.

Casares exhibited his near flawless stroke in the 100 yard butterfly and showed why he was all-conference last year. His first place time allowed him to finish with a seven second lead.

Sophomore David Chmielewski placed second in the 100-yard freestyle, missing the time necessary for making States by six-hundredths of a second. "I am really happy about getting so close this early in the season."

Papenhausen placed first in the 500-yard freestyle by beating his next competitor by half a minute.

Senior co-captain Tom Krazit and sophomore Doug Tracy took first and second place in the 100 yard backstroke.

The breaststroke had senior Dave Shea, sophomore Shane Igo, and freshman Tim Baudis finishing second, third, and fourth with times that were all within one second of each other. The points gained from this event put the Tomahawks over the top to win the meet.

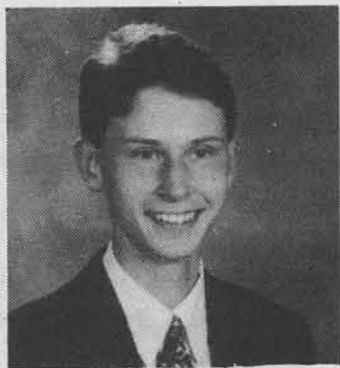
Coach Susie Hoyt commented, "We have more depth than we have had in a while. I am very pleased with the effort that everyone has been putting in at practice and meets. I think the season will be a good one, but a challenging one."

**The Paladin staff is always eager to welcome new sportswriters and photographers. Come to our next meeting on Monday, in Room #141.**

### TIME OUT: OVERRATED!!!

#### Sixty Thousand Silent Irish Fans Witness "The Drive"

Editorial by Jeremy T. Chrabasz



Is God a BC fan or does he or she just prefer close games? On Saturday, November 20th, the then No. 1 ranked Notre Dame Fighting Irish were upset by another catholic school, Boston College, for the first time in the team's 106 year history, 41-39.

With 0:05 left on the clock, down 39-38, BC's field goal unit took the field. Walk-on placekicker David Gordon, a native of Avon, was faced with the kick of his career. No pressure though. Suddenly, with the clock expiring, the pigskin emerged high above three leaping Irish defenders and quickly curved to the right, exploding through the uprights. Good!

I was standing exactly where that now notorious kick fell through the posts. On November 20th, my father and I witnessed, perhaps, the greatest college football game in memory. We were BC fans who had made the destined trek to South Bend. Just watching the sixty thousand Irish fans stand, silent, in shock and awe at Gordon's

accomplishment was worth the trip. Notre Dame Head Coach Lou Holtz still has trouble watching the videotape of the game, let alone talking about it.

The defeated Irish were not only dethroned in the polls, but fell all the way to No. 5. Florida State, who had lost to Notre Dame the previous week, has a chance to regain the No. 1 spot for good with a victory over Nebraska in a bowl for the national championship. There is not a clear cut undefeated No. 1 team in the country any longer and determining just who is the best is becoming increasingly difficult.

Nebraska, Auburn and West Virginia all carry undefeated records into their bowls, but none deserve the No. 1 spot anymore than FSU. Nebraska comes from the Big Eight conference, a conference known for its ever-so-boring offensive displays. Nebraska has not played any real competition. Auburn, the "cheaters", are on NCAA probation and are not allowed to go to a post-season game for at least another three years. And then there are the Mountaineers. West Virginia is probably the closest to being able to consider itself the "best", but that would not be saying much about this year's competition would it. West Virginia, the Big East Champions, snuck by Miami and

Boston College by only a field goal, with a final score of 17-14 in each contest. Therefore the national title, unfortunately, will probably go to FSU which boasts the best record and the best schedule.

So, the bowl picture and national championship race is hazy to say the least. So what? The Boston College Eagles have a chance to finish the highest they have since the Doug Flutie era, 15th. Heck, if Gordon had hit the game-winning 40-yard field goal earlier in the season against Northwestern, who's to say that the Eagles wouldn't be battling for No. 1?

One thing's for sure, Boston College has one of if not the most potent offense in college football. Sorry all of you front-running Florida State fans, but Charlie Ward is overrated. In fact, Ward falls far short of being the "top dog" statistically. So why is he considered No. 1 and why was he the overwhelming choice to win the Heisman? I propose that Ward draws attention for the crowd-drawing, scrambling techniques he employs. Ward is not an NFL quarterback, for he has neither the speed nor the arm of a Randall Cunningham.

Glenn Foley and BC's pro-type offense were far too much for the Irish to handle. After dropping the first two games of the season, Glenn

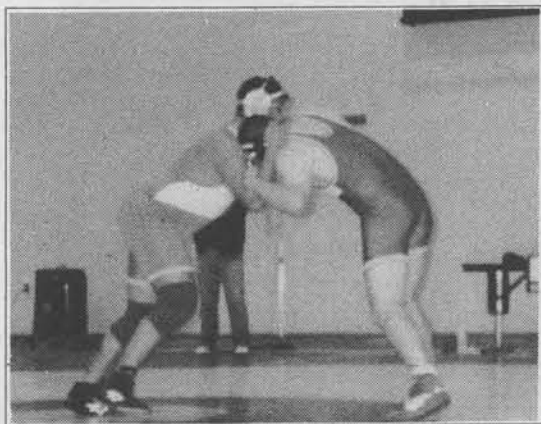
Foley created an offense which averaged over 42 points per game during its eight-game winning streak. Foley completed 30 of 45 passes for 315 yards, to lead his team to the most points scored against Notre Dame since 1969. Foley finished a remarkable fifth in the Heisman Trophy voting. Why did a player who had not even been thought of as a candidate for the Heisman at the start of the year sneak into the fifth spot? Because Foley and his Boston College Screaming Eagles moved the ball as much as they wanted against the Irish, something FSU could not accomplish. With such a prolific display of passing efficiency over the past nine games, Foley clearly must have increased his value in next year's draft.

No. 15 Boston College will square off with unrated Virginia on January 1st in the Carquest Bowl. It should not be that difficult of a challenge for Foley and crew who beat Virginia Tech by 14 pts, a team which had little trouble in crushing Virginia earlier in the season. I predict that Boston College will pounce on Virginia by an easy 14, even though the actual line only has BC as a meager 5-point favorite. Meanwhile, I suggest that all FSU fans tune in to witness the artistry of the real No. 1 quarterback in the country, Glenn Foley.



## Wrestlers get pinned in first match

by Rashaan Williams



A Tomahawk Wrestler grapples with opponent.

The Glastonbury High School wrestlers opened its season at Newington Thursday, December 16th. Unfortunately, however in the process, they lost 43-24 but showed that they did have a fighting spirit.

Captain Jay Angeli, in the 119 pound weight class, won Glastonbury's first three points of the match, which made the score 12-3. Newington scored nine points before captain Karl Gastembini scored another

three points for Glastonbury which made it 21-6. Captain Eric Damato pinned the Newington wrestlers in 1:24. John Wilson finished up Glastonbury's scoring by pinning in 1:16 to make the score 38-24. Ryan McDonald made a good showing in the heavy-weight class but Newington's team member had a few penalty points given to him.

JV made a good showing winning 48-40 with seven pins out of 17 wrestlers.



Sophomore Kristen Penney (13 pts., including two three-pointers) leads Hawks over Eagles



## Basketball team takes tougher approach

Boys led by five captains

By Rashaan Williams

"We're tougher," were the first words out of the mouths of four of the five 1993-94 varsity basketball captains when asked, "What is different about this year's team from last year's team?" Last year's team was only the third team in thirty years to qualify for the state basketball tournament, but it still finished with a losing record of 8-11. "Our goals for the season are to be above five hundred for the first time in thirty years and to make a good showing in the state tournament," said Jay Faye, a junior captain and guard for the Tomahawks.

Along with Faye there are four other captains; senior-guard Chris Angeli, junior-guard Shane Kinsler, senior-forward Steve Kessler, and senior-center Justin Shearer. "We're all friends," said Angeli. "Last year everybody was I, I, I. This year there will be none of that."

Not only do the Tomahawks get along better, but this year they have a tougher attitude. "We have a tougher team physically and mentally," said Kinsler. "In the past, if they tried to get physical they would lose their composure," added Angeli. "This year we're striving to be physical."

Although this year's team has a tougher attitude, they lost key players Seth Meehan and Chris O'Leary who both transferred. "Last year's team had much more experience," commented Kessler.

Unlike the past, the Tomahawks have a different game plan going onto the court. "We are running this year," said Kinsler with a sigh of relief. Angeli added, "This year we don't slow the ball up, we run. Our defense will start our offense. As soon as we get a rebound, we'll be on the fast break."

To go along with the new game plan, the Tomahawks also have some new players. Added to the varsity team this year will be Jason McCord, a transfer from Wethersfield High School and co-captain Justin Shearer. They will help replace some of the rebounding ability the team lost when Keith Barquouist graduated. Also added to the varsity lineup are sophomores Edwin Colon, Jason Goodhue, and LaTroy Dacosta.

Angeli commented, "If someone thinks they're going to drive down the lane, to get a easy lay up, everyone will give him a piece."

## Indoor track off and running

by Jason Hoyer

The Glastonbury indoor track team opened its season with a good start on December 15 in Glastonbury with an excellent performance in the first CCC developmental meet. A non-scoring exhibition event, the meet gave good indications of Glastonbury's strength and potential.

"Highlighting the meet was Keith Chicoine's new school record pole vault of 13 feet, 1 inch," remarked Glastonbury's Head Coach Carl Peterson. "In addition, the other pole vaulters performed well and distance

events were strong."

In the 4x800 meter relay, the Glastonbury team consisting of Jason Carr, Dave Yakovich, Jason Murphy and Brandon Cochrane finished first with a time of 9:54, led by Cochrane's 2:15 half mile. Yakovich then teamed with Jeremy Gordon, Tom Meredith and Jim Hankard in the 4x400 meter relay. Glastonbury won again with a time of 4:09, with Meredith running an incredible 58.6.

Mark Olschefske led

the boys sprinting with a 5.96 in the 45m, and K.C. Sullivan ran a 41.6 for the 300, winning his heat. The 500 meters was led by Tom Meredith (1:14) and Jeremy Gordon (1:17).

The GHS girls' indoor track team also ran strong on Wednesday, with some great individual performances. Leading the distance events were Michelle Harris and Jackie Jones. Harris ran a 2:58 for the 800 and Jones a 1:36 for the 500 meters. In sprinting, Audra Price ran a 45.0 for the 300 meters, and Ashley Flanigan a 7.1 in the 45 meter sprint.

"We have a lot of young talent and potential," commented girls' Head Coach Barbara Mathewson.

One would hope that the track team can build off their early season success and improve throughout the course of the season. With a strong, well-balanced performance, Glastonbury would like to place itself among the top teams in the state.



Seniors Brandon Cochrane and Michelle Harris race to victory.



# Arts Attacker

## Madame Bovary Es Mi The Ramblings of Trey West Ramble # 6: 1917, or Close Enough



I had passed out after the strange journey from Snowball's Samiguel apartment. The next thing I remember was being awakened by Snowball, lying on a large lawn, in the middle of a great city. I quickly guessed from the sophisticated hussel of the street life, from the immediately apparent passionate blood of the city's inhabitants, or, perhaps from the fact that I was staring at the Kremlin, that I was now in Moscow.

Snowball turned to me and said, "Here we are my brave lad, the very heart of the greatest revolution of all time, Moscow, October, or November, we never really could figure it out, 1917."

"My God, Comrade Snowball! Ah, you Russians, so highly tempered, and yet, look! Even on the eve of total insurrection everyone on both sides is so calm! They walk the streets without a thought about the danger to their lives!"

Then I noticed that Snowball was looking about the streets frantically. He seemed confused and worried.

"Oh, no," exclaimed Snowball. "I remember this day! I was here this day! It was nothing like this! And look at the clothes! We didn't dress like this in 1917! Why, it was one of the greatest fashion eras of all time! And look at these fops! I mean, look at this excessive display of beourgesie hypocrisy."

All of a sudden I realized that, in fact, the dress

and complete lack of vehicles would suggest the nineteenth century.

Snowball became very self-conscious, which, I knew already, was highly unusual for him. "Look, my youthful comrade, this time travel thing is only possible when you get old. But age also brings senility," he muttered.

I saw a young couple taking a walk. Both were dressed quite expensively. The man had a reddish face and a wild mop of coal black hair. The woman was beautiful, a temptress. I decided to ask a few questions. I overheard parts of their previous conversation. The first thing I heard was stated by the man. "Oh, Yashkinova, you are so naive! It makes me furious!! The Czar is not Tolstoy in disguise. In fact, I sometimes think our leader is a bit of a dunce!"

"My God, Alexandriavitch Noskov Nicholayovitch, I'm sorry it's the other way around, isn't it? You are such a heathen anarchist! To think that I was engaged to you, seven different times!"

"I tell you Yashkinova, I'm thinking of killing myself!!! Do you have a train schedule?"

I looked back at Snowball, who had also heard the discussion and was now weeping with shame and cackling with contempt simultaneously. Still, I felt we needed to know for sure where and when we were.

"Hello my good people. Excuse my intrusion but could you please tell me the time?"

At this, Yashkinova laughed at me and said, "Can you believe this little fool, Alexandriovitch Nicholayovitch? What is the matter with you? Do you not know any better than to ask a question such as *that* at a time

such as *this*!"

She went into a wild fit of cruel laughter until she vomited on me. At least they spoke English.

I was pleased to find that when I asked, "How about the year?" they had absolutely no objections and politely told me that it was 1880.

They continued on their way until they encountered Snowball sitting on the sidewalk. After seeing him, Alexandriovitch cried, "God, I hate the old!" and commenced to beat Snowball sadistically about the head. Then they got into their carriage and went on their merry way.

"No wonder the proletariat revolution started here first," mumbled Snowball.

So, there we were, lying on the sidewalk in late nineteenth century Moscow beaten and up-chucked upon. And then from out of nowhere, my firefly shaped friend, Mitch Halliwell appeared. He was immensely surprised and delighted to find me and was very honored to meet Snowball, who was an old hero of his. Recently, Mitch's seventh consecutive symphony had been widely rejected for performance. To even out his depression, Mitch had decided to widen his self-created freedom to include time travel as well as shape-changing. He said that he wanted to join the RDD because his cousin, the famous British film critic, Leslie Halliwell had been threatened that if he did not give a movie a decent review in the next decade, he would be fired.

Then, Mitch took the three of us back to Samiguel, 1993. Snowball and I cleaned ourselves up, and then began the trip back to the states for our confrontation with Van Manionikov.



## Try Real Punk Rock: Guns N' Roses - The Spaghetti Incident? Incident?

Rating: \*\*1/2

by Hanching Fuh

Punk Rock? Guns n' Roses? These are two things that do not fit together very well, as proven by the new all cover tunes GN' R album, The Spaghetti Incident?

The first cover, "Since I Don't Have You," a rock ballad originally recorded by the Skyliners in 1958, is among the only quality tunes on the album. In it, Axl Rose actually sings clear and at his best.

However, from there, the album basically heads downhill. "New Rose," by the famous British punk band the Damned, lacks the intensity, fire, and anger that the original material always had. Axl Rose, on the U.K. Sub's "Down On The Farm," puts on a British accent even more fake than the one Kevin Costner attempted in the movie Robin Hood: Prince Of Thieves. The New York Doll's tune "Human Being," although fast, is done horribly with the exception of the kazoo solo at the end.

Side two of the tape begins with lead guitarist Slash's debut on lead vocals. This song, "Buick Makane," has a boring riff, and the whole end is repetitive cursing. Before you think anything could get worse, GN'R attempts to cover a Sex Pistols tune, "Black Leather."

"You Can't Put Your Arms Around A Memory" is better than most songs because Axl does not sing on it. Almost all the instrumentation on "Memory" is done by Duff McKagen, who dedicates the song to the memory of Johnny Thunders, who

originally did the song in 1978.

A hidden track, an acoustic song originally performed by convicted mass-murderer Charles Manson, is actually the best song on the album. It is very relaxing, has good percussion, and the lyrics, such as "What a mad illusion / Living in the confusion," and "You tell those lies baby, but you're only fooling you," are genuinely poetic. A big controversy has erupted over the recording of this track, since if The Spaghetti Incident? sells 1 million copies, then Manson, currently serving a life sentence for leading his cult to murder actress Sharon Tate, would earn \$60,000.

The biggest problem with this album is that it lacks the authenticity and anger of real punk songs. That is one reason Guns n' Roses is considered by many as a sold-out, "poser" band. Many of the tracks, even if the power chords are played well, are ruined by Axl's singing, which is not fit for punk tunes. Had this album not been of well written songs that I enjoy, it probably would have received one of those stupid clear stars that papers use for cheesy, dumb movies.

Take advice right from the inside cover of The Spaghetti Incident?, "A great song can be found anywhere. Do yourself a favor and go find the originals." Yep, and also do yourself a favor by not squandering your hard-earned cash on this album.



## No "Doubt" Williams will rule holiday film season

### "Mrs. Doubtfire"

\*\*\*\*

In his first film role since the popular Disney creation "*Aladdin*", Robin Williams portrays an unemployed comic who specializes in cartoon voices and dubbing.

"*Mrs. Doubtfire*" opens with Williams getting the hook from a hollywood studio executive who does not appreciate the personal commentary that he ad libs into the scripts. But in order to make sure that his son still has a happy birthday that day, Williams holds a wild party complete with animals, popular rap music and oodles of rugrats who successfully destroy the place. Then mom comes home.

Sally Field enters the picture as Williams' wife, a highly successful architect. Field, although an artist dramatically, plays somewhat dry as a comic. Continuing to try her hand at comedy after the disappointing "*Soapdish*," Field dwells on over-acting and predictable body language in "*Doubtfire*." When her character comes home early to discover the mess, she immediately goes into a tirade. At the conclusion of the argument, which follows Williams and his wife around their upper-class, suburban San Francisco home, Field declares, "I want a divorce." How trite. But in attempting to watch and enjoy "*Mrs. Doubtfire*," you must overcome its banality to focus on it as a whole.

After being "exiled," Williams must prove to the court within a period of a couple of months, that he can support himself and a safe, enjoyable living area for his children's visits. It is the obstacle of seeing his children which motivates him to apply for the nanny job that his wife has put an ad out for. After sabotaging the ad by

changing its phone number and disguising his voice as an elderly English woman, he is able to arrange an interview. But, there's a little problem...he's a man.

Williams then seeks the aide of his brother and his brother's boyfriend (that's right, they're gay), who are Hollywood makeup artists. Using a fascinating process which includes prosthetics and extensive makeup, Williams is successfully transformed into an elderly woman. It is from where the interview takes place on, that the audience is asked to overlook the many impossibilities.

For example, through the course of the many weeks that Mrs. Doubtfire (a name concocted by Williams through the combining of words in a newspaper headline) cares for the children, it would be highly unlikely that they would not pick up on Williams' mannerisms. After living with your father for over ten years, you should be able to identify him no matter how much makeup he wears. I must admit, however, that the way the children find out his secret is quite hilarious and unexpected. I will try not to give anything away and just say that the scene involves the bathroom.

Pierce Brosnan, of "*The Lawnmower Man*," and who may possibly succeed Timothy Dalton as James Bond, enters the film as a love interest for Field. This, although a predictable development in the plot, proves to provide a great deal of material that Mrs. Doubtfire can use in her comic relief. And of course, there's a happy ending to all of this confusion and chaos.

There is no doubt (no pun intended) in my mind that "*Mrs. Doubtfire*" will blow away such holiday re-

leases as "*Wayne's World 2*" and "*Geronimo*" with its inter-generational appeal. Don't get me wrong, with cameos by stars such as Meat Loaf and Aerosmith in "*Wayne's World 2*", it is sure to surpass the success of the original. However, who will be able to pass up Williams' impression of James Bond hitting on Moneypenny?

One of the youngest and most successful directors in Hollywood, Chris Columbus, writes some comical one-liners and inserts a great deal of kooky antics in "*Doubtfire*" similar to those in his "*Home Alone*" series. Columbus also gives us the first successful and truly hilarious comedy on cross-dressing since Dustin Hoffman's "*Tootsie*." The cinematography is as simple as it has been in all of Columbus' previous works. He certainly does not have the ability yet to be either dramatic nor comedic through his photography. What Columbus does do well, is work off of the actors. He gives them all the realm that they need to make the scene what they think it should be. So, in essence, the film's success will be attributable to the visions and dedication of the players, not the director.

In fact, it is Williams' performance alone which is able to salvage "*Doubtfire*"'s dry script. Robin Williams is at his comedic best here and that's probably because he seems to be having so much fun playing a woman (Is there something we should know, Robin?). Not since "*Good Morning Vietnam*", has Williams been allowed the space in which to be himself. In "*Doubtfire*" Williams proves once again, that he will remain one of the greatest comedians of all time.

-Jeremy T. Chrabaszcz



## Monstrous Success of Pearl Jam Continues With Vs.

### Pearl Jam

rating: \*\*\* 1/2

With the enormous commercial success of Pearl Jam's monstrous first album, 1991's *Ten*, it seemed that singer Eddie Vedder and his band had become superstars overnight. After months of touring while their album tore up Billboard's top 100 to finally rest securely in the number 1 spot, the boys in Pearl Jam have acquired one of the largest followings of any band today.

All this is not surprising, considering Pearl Jam's situation. Here is a classic example of a band being in the right place at the right time. Their raw yet structured energy forms a distinctive, listenable sound which, when produced and marketed effectively, is bound to be a commercial bullseye. This is not to say, however, that their music is trashy or worthless — far from it. Vedder and company produce respectable, often inspired music. And on their sophomore effort, *Vs.*, they continue this trend.


Upon listening to *Vs.*, it is immediately apparent that Pearl Jam's greatest strength is songwriting. The riffs and melodies here are quite memorable and, when combined with Vedder's distinctively powerful voice, they really leave an impression. The lyrics, though often muddled and unintelligible, weave Vedder's dark, disturbing dramas so well that the listener often feels him or herself actually drawn into the songs.

Among the best tracks on *Vs.* are "Glorified G," a venomously sarcastic anti-gun statement, "Rearviewmirror," an angry song about a victim of abuse who apparently runs over his tormentor, and "Leash," a previously unrecorded live favorite, about a pregnancy and the young man's desire to be free. Several acoustic pieces, "Daughter," "Elderly Woman Behind the Counter in a Small Town," and "Indifference," balance out the album and add a sense of melody. Vedder's lyrics, throughout the album, are fascinating in that they perfectly capture the thoughts of an individual in a given situation. They are angry, fragmented, and often ugly, effectively putting across the music's disturbing subject matter.

However, while the lyrics and songwriting are excellent, the musical aspects of this album leave much to be desired. Except for a few clever guitar lines ("Glorified G," "Animal"), Stone Gossard's riff-o-rama guitarchitecture proves to be uninspired and unoriginal, not to mention just plain dull, while Mike McCready's overbearing wah-wah solos rarely produce anything good. Jeff Ament is a bassist and nothing more. Dave Abbruzzese lays down a pretty decent beat, but it often gets lost in the rattling din that is characteristic of the band's sound. In addition, Producer Brendan O'Brien gives the album an unfortunately sparse, thin feel with his characteristically overdone compression of guitars. All these combined do provide a good foundation for the songs, however, which is what this band is all about. Pearl Jam is more than the sum of its parts, with Vedder making the strongest contribution.

With the new album already having hit number 1 on the Billboard charts, it looks as if Pearl Jam will again tread the path of fame. One can only hope that they, having inherited the title of most popular band in the world, will not compromise or betray what they stand for.

- Tim Peterson



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# Roving Reporter

by Ho Ho Ho

This month's question:

**What's your favorite or least favorite aspect of the holiday season?**



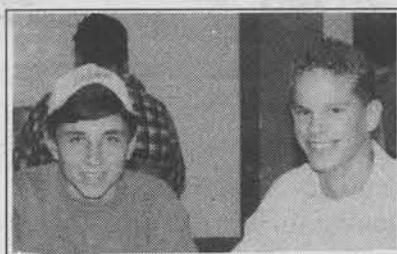
"Christmas carols blasting everywhere are my least favorite, but I like Santa Claus. He's cool." Stacey Godlewski '95



"My least favorite thing is spending money for gifts and my most favorite thing is getting gifts." Dave Pirotta '95



"I like telling Santa what I want." Giovanna Cavagnaro '96



"People who leave Christmas lights up until February bother me." Steve Barwikowski '95  
"I hate when people tie those little bells to their shoes." Mike Dewberry '95



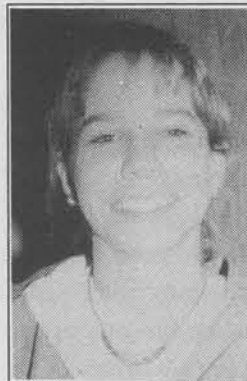
"I just love waking up at 8 a.m. for morning practice on Christmas." Pete Casares '94



"The thing I hate most is when my cat destroys our Christmas tree by attacking it. My most favorite is to go into the room and see all the presents piled up." Rebecca Landry '97



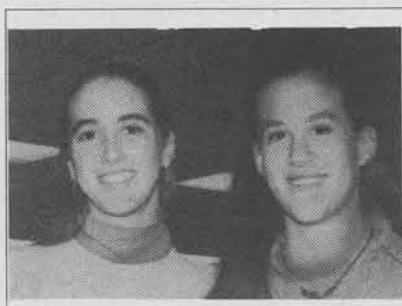
"Relatives are my least favorite. My grandmother is really picky. My most favorite is the presents. All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth." Brent Whitford '96



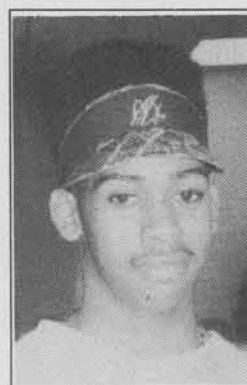
"My favorite thing is that my family comes up from Italy. My least favorite is that I have to clean." Jamie Scalora '96



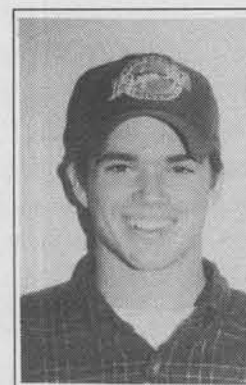
"Our favorite things are presents, being with your family and friends, and not having to come to school. The least is that vacation is too short, and it's too cold." Margaret Radonski, Betsy laureano, Sharmila Rosado, Mahogany Finn '97



"The crowded malls." Heather Scamuzzi '96  
"Buying presents for so many people." Sarah Shwarz '96



"The least is that everybody is trying to work hard studying over vacation because once you go back there are midterms. The most is vacation and getting gifts. I want money or a car." Mariano Noesi '95



"My favorite is presents and my least favorite is shopping." KC Sullivan '95

"My least favorite is when my family members come and my favorite is when they leave." Keith Butzgy '94

"My most favorite thing is telling little kids that Santa isn't real." Gary Buzzell '96

"I never know what to get my dad other than jelly beans and socks." Meredith Miller '94



# You're Special, Too!

by Doctor Jane



Hey people! Thanks for all the letters that you have submitted! We still need more, so drop them off in the school newspaper box at the main office. Remember, the sooner you get it to us, the more likely it will get in. Thank you all and enjoy:

-Dr. Jane

Dear Dr. Jane,  
What *did* come first, the chicken or the egg?

-Wondering

Dear Wondering,

The question you asked was just Cold War era Soviet propaganda, aimed at boggling the intellects and wasting the time of America's greatest minds. By pondering over this question, the Russians believed, these useful people would not spend as much time building nukes, thus stalling the U.S. military machine. To be honest, though, Aristotle stated that since potentiality precedes actuality, and an egg is a potential chicken and a chicken a real chicken, the egg must have come first.

-Dr. Jane

Dear Dr. Jane,

I am deeply disturbed that people are cruel enough to eat fruits and vegetables. How could anyone with a conscience slaughter those innocent plants? They can't run away or fight for themselves. Plants have feelings, too! I believe people should all be carnivorous, since our animal instincts crave for meat. At least animals can defend themselves!

I can't believe people will gut a pineapple or peel the skin off an orange without even stopping to think about it. In science, we perform experiments on these plants. I know of no one except me who has protested about testing on plants, while thousands are adamantly against testing on animals. Where have our morals gone? Why don't we all sit down to a plant-free, all meat dinner tonight and leave those poor, defenseless plants alone!

-Plants Have Feelings

Dear Plants,

As a citizen of the United States, you have the right to express your opinions as you wish. You must remember, however, that many people think opposite of you, and do not believe it is right to eat any meat. Scientists also state that, in order to have good nutrition, you must have the proper balance of the four food groups, which includes many grains, 5 fruits and vegetables per day, smaller portions of meat and dairy products, and as little junk food as possible. Personally, I hate eating vegetables, but I do love fruit things, especially any strawberry flavored treats.

-Dr. Jane

Dear Dr. Jane,

What in the world will Meatloaf not do?

-?????????

Dear ????????,

You don't know? Everybody but *you* knows the answer to this simple question, but they are hiding it from you. Actually, I'm joking. I believe that Meatloaf meant for each person to interpret "but I won't do that" in his/her own way, depending on what they believe and value. Personally, I think he won't stick burning hot coals up his nose and have pure jello powder poured down his throat while being impaled on a pogo stick. But hey, I may be very wrong!

-Dr. Jane

Dear Dr. Jane,

I love Spam! It is fun to bounce off the walls, tastes great and feels good between my toes. Spamburger hamburgers are even better than the real thing! Despite all that, everyone laughs at me for my obsession with Spam. Is there something wrong with me?

-Hail Spam!

Dear Spam,

You forgot that Spam is also a very good source of energy. If you burned a ton of it, you could probably run New York City for a year. However, scientists have yet to determine the safety of this process. By the way, there is nothing wrong with Spam. I use to love it as a kid.

-Dr. Jane

# Horoscopes

by Miranda (with guest psychic Henrico)

Aries  
(3/21-4/19)

You may be a little moody this month. Watch out for a cute boy/girl in a green shirt on the 29th. This person will raise your spirits. Cleaning your room on the 11th will get you on your parents' good side. It's worth the effort. Also, try doing some homework before exams. Stay in bed on the 14th.

Taurus  
(4/20-5/20)

Bond with your friends all this month. Consider entertaining on some Friday night to bring all of you together. Watch out on December 27th. A family fight may be in your future. Definitely buy yourself something on the 2nd. You deserve it. Day to bake cookies: Jan. 5th

Gemini  
(5/21-6/21)

The feelings of uncertainty you've been having will disappear this month. The 22nd is a great day to do all of your favorite activities. (sledding?) You may be tempted to drop a class right after exams—but don't do it. This New Year's Eve will be one to remember—if you get out of the house! Day to hog the spotlight: Jan. 26

Cancer  
(6/22-7/22)

Whoa—calm down! One Saturday night at home will not ruin your social life. Stay home and relax! Then start running around like crazy the Monday after. Keep an eye out for an older girl/boy that's got his/her eyes on you! Day to ponder life: Jan 27th.

Leo  
(7/23-8/22)

A heavy burden will be lifted this month, so celebrate on the 28th. Get all dressed up on New Year's and party all night. The 'rents will be lenient. Buy some new clothes with your holiday money—and donate your clothes to the Salvation Army. Day to play Ann Landers: Jan 13, 25

Virgo  
(8/23-9/22)

Resist the urge to stay in bed, but don't overexert yourself either. Use each Sunday as a true day of rest and just relax. Any sports you may be participating in this month will be successful—take your friends bowling and beat them or work extra hard in practice for amazing results. Day to party: Jan 22

Libra  
(9/23-10/22)

Your home life may be a little unsteady because of sibling rivalry. Consider staying at a friend's house for the weekend. Watch your hormones on the 27th. You may do something you regret—or maybe you won't! (?) Your spirits will uplift anyone and everyone on the 19th. So get out of the house and spread some cheer!

Scorpio  
(10/23-11/21)

Although people are sometimes afraid of your intensity, they'll start to finally appreciate your talents. Starting a diary in the near future will be something you won't regret. Set aside an afternoon (on the 9th?) and scribble away. Day to flirt: Jan 13th.

Sagittarius  
(11/22-12/21)

Well, just because your birthday just passed does not mean no one will be paying attention to you anymore. In fact, the contrary is true! Make sure to comb your hair on the 8th. Someone may snap a photo of you when you're not looking. You may feel the need to organize something—a social event, a club activity, or maybe even your room. Just do it on the 11th.

Capricorn  
(12/22-1/19)

Don't let anyone forget about you in these next few weeks or you may get left behind! Your usually passive self needs to take a stand. Yell at that librarian! (or at the wall) Now is a great time to start exercising—go chill with Mr. Wild in the weight room. Day to spill your guts: Jan. 25th.

Aquarius  
(1/20-2/18)

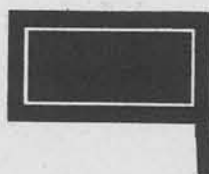
This year will start off great for you—if you can remember to write 1994 on your papers! The 20th or 21st may find you in a situation a little out of the ordinary—but you'll deal. You'll get a shock to your ego on the 27th. You are not the center of the universe! This will come as a surprise, but it's the truth. Day to smile incessantly: Jan. 1st.

Pisces  
(2/19-3/20)

You've got the Midas touch this month—not only will you be rolling in cash but you'll be lucky at anything you try! Convince your mom to buy you a lottery ticket. Romantic feelings will come over you on the 15th. Wear some stylin' clothes. Stay away from demanding people on the 16th and 17th. You may say things you'll regret.

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Merry Christmas to my lunch table and Happy Birthday to Christmas Girl-That stinks. Happy New Year Saffron-when's practice? -From the Baby

**Wanted:** Male lead vocalist to audition for local band featuring all forms of Rock & Roll. Call Keith at 657-9533.

**Babysitters wanted:** We are looking for babysitters "as needed basis" for 3 year old and a 7 month old. Own transportation preferable. Chestnut Hill area. \$5 / hour. 657-3935 Ask for Mary.

cont. from p. 5

my poor, non-Christian eyes from the trauma of seeing a Christmas tree is the purpose of this act, don't worry. I'm not going to sue anybody."

This is a very controversial issue, but after December 25th, no one will have to worry about it until next year.

Junior Kevin Miller felt that the policy epitomizes of today's society. "I'm sick of the fact that anything that has to do with a mainstream tradition, religion, race or culture is seen as offensive or discriminating towards members of minority groups," he

said "She's not offending anyone; she's merely being festive about a holiday which a majority of people celebrate and, unfortunately, that seems to be a crime these days."

Senior Seema Shah stated, "Students are allowed to wear Confederate flags but not pictures of Santa Claus? That's not consistent!"



cont. from p. 5

teenagers. They don't listen to music such as hard rock and pop, which sometimes promotes drug use and sex.

As Jassica looked over photos of her family and old friends, she took a deep breath and then said, "It is boring here." The only fun she has in America is going to malls and movies with friends. In China, students often go to movies, hike on a nearby mountain, or have barbecues.

Most of the time, though, she is busy working at Roy Rogers. She does not really enjoy this job, but it is a way to add to her family's income. Teenagers in China generally don't have part time jobs.

When Jassica started going to school in the United States, her parents would not allow her to stay over at friends' houses as she had done in China, because they feared drugs and sex. "Teenagers here are wild compared to the teenagers in my native country," Jassica comments.

Today, Jassica is a junior here at GHS. Her dreams for the future include going to college and becoming a home designer. For now, though, she would be content just to learn to speak English fluently.

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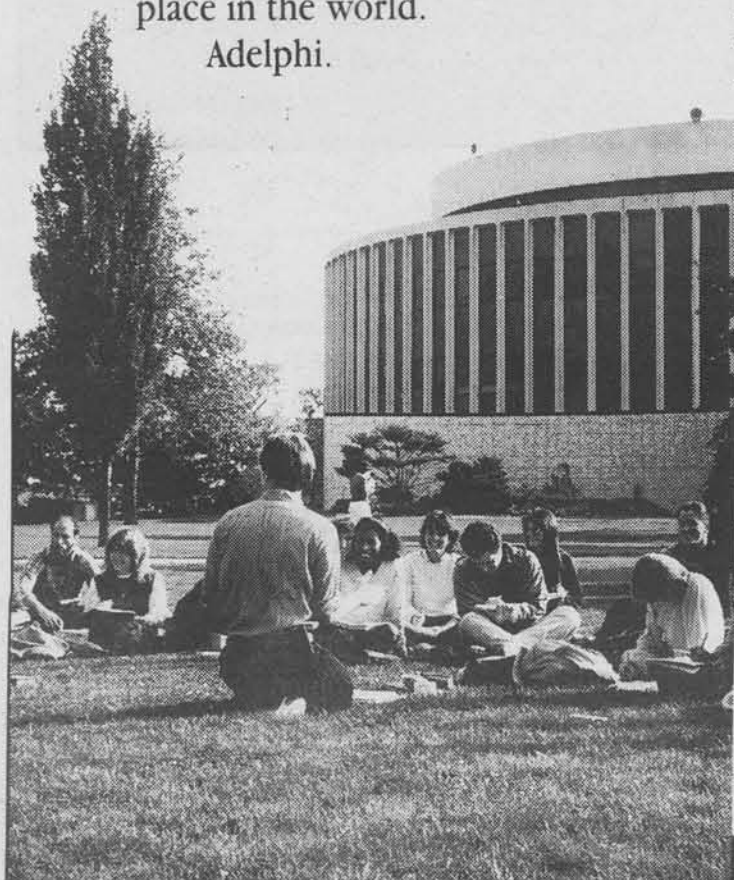
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